



Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

Public Notice No.

P-2831

Public Notice Date

July 20, 2012

Expiration Date

August 20, 2012

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2012-464

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Keith A. McMullen

APPLICANT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division (USACE), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

LOCATION: The Prairie du Pont/Fish Lake Project area is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River, just downriver from the City of St. Louis. The project extends from river mile (RM) 166 to RM 175 above the Ohio River. The northern portion of the levee lies in St. Clair County, IL and the southern portion in Monroe County, IL (Attachment 1). The project also occupies portions of two independent Levee Districts. The northern portion of the levee in St. Clair County is administered by the Prairie du Pont Sanitary and Levee District, while the southern portion of the levee is administered by the Fish Lake Drainage and Levee District. This levee system protects approximately 19 square miles of bottomland with the levee districts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The tentatively selected plan to address the deficiencies is Alternative 4, Combination Plan, which includes the following: 130 new relief wells; filling 162 existing wood stave relief wells with grout; ditching and pipe collector systems; a 22 cubic foot/second (cfs) seepage pump station; a 13 cfs seepage pump station; a 5 cfs seepage pump station; a 3 cfs pump station; an 8 cfs seepage pump station; approximately 28,500 linear feet of seepage berms; environmental and archeological mitigation work; utility relocations; dredging from the Mississippi River; and easements for berms, relief wells in locations with no existing wells, flowage areas, staging areas, and

environmental mitigation areas. Additional construction elements would occur, but are unlikely to be specifically designed until after a contract is awarded. These are anticipated to include dredge pipe placement at approximately levee stations 242+00, 434+00 and 587+00, as well as associated stockpile sites for the temporary storage of dredge material needed for berm construction. At each stockpile area, it is likely that temporary low berms and ditches would be constructed to confine the dredge material and that portable pumps would be installed in these areas to return dredge effluent to the river. At the present time, construction is anticipated to begin in October 2014 and end by June 2016. The main components of the tentatively selected plan for each decision segment are summarized in Table EA-3

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/DraftPrairieDuPontLRR/Draft%20Environmental%20Assessment%20and%20FONSI.pdf>

The beginning and end of each decision segment are described by levee stations.

Mitigation: The project will impact approximately 38.1 acres of farmed wetlands. Based on habitat unit calculations, approximately 22.0 acres of non-forested wetland would be required to offset the project impacts. A detailed mitigation plan describing specific locations and details associated with creation or enhancement of wetlands is included in Appendix EA-MP.

[http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/DraftPrairieDuPontLRR/Appendix%20A%20-%20PDPFL%20TCA%20404\(b\)\(1\),%20Mitigation%20Plan,%20and%20MICA%2016%20July%202012%20with%20Title%20Page.pdf](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/DraftPrairieDuPontLRR/Appendix%20A%20-%20PDPFL%20TCA%20404(b)(1),%20Mitigation%20Plan,%20and%20MICA%2016%20July%202012%20with%20Title%20Page.pdf)

It is noted that the proposed mitigation plan will be open to comment and subject to change. The Corps will make a determination of appropriate mitigation, upon review of all submitted information.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See Attachments 1 and 2

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Keith A. McMullen, Illinois Section Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8582. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to keith.a.mcmullen@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: This public notice also provides documentation to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notice/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below.

Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

IDNR/OWR APPROVAL: This public notice also seeks approval for proposed impacts caused by the above mentioned corrective actions taken to rectify design deficiencies in the Prairie du Pont/Fish Lake Drainage and Levee Districts in St. Clair and Monroe Counties, in Illinois (P-2831) in accordance with “an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois” (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch. The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

DRAFT EA/FONSI: The St. Louis District Project Management Branch announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) with Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed work. The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to present a detailed proposal to correct design deficiencies throughout the project area. These documents are available for electronic viewing at the following link. Please visit the following link

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pm/DraftPrairieDuPontLRR/Draft%20Environmental%20Assessment%20and%20FONSI.pdf>

A hard copy of the documents are also available for viewing at the St. Louis District Project Management Branch in the Robert A. Young Federal Building, at 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant’s proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The following Federally threatened and endangered species occur within the proposed project area: Gray bat, Indiana bat, Least tern, Pallid sturgeon, Illinois cave amphipod, Decurrent false aster and Eastern prairie fringed orchid. The St. Louis Engineering District Environmental Branch has conducted an assessment of possible impacts to endangered species which is included in the EA/FONSI.

In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and the public in response to this public notice.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.